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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,955	09/22/2003	James Y.J. Chung	PO7946/MD02-19	1214

157 7590 06/23/2006

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EXAMINER

SZEKELY, PETER A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1714

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/667,955

Applicant(s)

CHUNG ET AL.

Examiner

Peter Szekely

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11 and 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1-8, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross et al. 6,610,770, in view of Beall et al. 5,804,613, further in view of Ross et al. 6,380,295.
3. The primary and secondary references have been discussed already. Ross et al. ('295) reveal smectite clays, quaternary ammonium compounds and polycarbonates in claim 1, montmorillonite in column 5, lines 35-39, the equivalence of quaternary ammonium and quaternary phosphonium salts in column 6, lines 35-38 and dimethyl dehydrogenated tallow ammonium chloride in column 7, lines 13-21. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art; at the time the invention was made, to select the particle size of Beall et al. for use in the composition of Ross et al. ('770), since they display similar compositions. It would have been also obvious in view of the revelations of Ross et al ('295) to use dimethyl dehydrogenated tallow ammonium chloride as the quaternary ammonium salt of choice or to use the equivalent quaternary phosphonium salt instead of the quaternary ammonium salt. The rejection is maintained in light of the answer to applicants' arguments elucidated below.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 5/9/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The declarations by Dr. Chung and Professor Manias have been carefully

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considered. Said declarations prove without a doubt that Messrs. Ross and Kaizerman were wrong when they claimed that organic acids, among them citric acid, are capable of reacting with the quaternary ammonium compound and intercalating the smectite clay. However, this does not negate the fact that the same gentlemen have invented a composition containing polycarbonate, montmorillonite, quaternary ammonium compounds and an organic acid, which can be citric acid. As a matter of fact, since it is now proven that no reaction takes place, it is clear that the composition of Ross et al. ('770) is identical to the one claimed by applicants. The rejection stands.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Szekeley whose telephone number is (571) 272-1124. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on (571) 272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Peter Szekely
Primary Examiner
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P.S.
6/21/06